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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/067,903	02/08/2002	Tomohiro Suzuki	219315US2	8034

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EXAMINER

JOYCE, WILLIAM C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3682

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/067,903

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI ET AL.

Examiner

William C. Joyce

Art Unit

3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 9-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 1.5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is the First Office Action in response to the Election filed on June 2, 2003.

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 5-8 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected Group, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 8.

2. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that both Groups appear to have an overlapping search and would not place a serious burden on the examiner. This is not found persuasive because each Group defines separate subject for inventive effort. The Claims in each Group may have an overlapping search, however identifying the diverging subject matter is a serious burden to an Examiner. The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Priority

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the term "troidal" (for example, lines 12, 14, and 15 of page 6) must be changed to --toroidal--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

5. The claims are objected to because they include reference characters, such as “z” (line 6 of claim 1 and elsewhere) and “O” (line 9 of claim 1), which are not enclosed within parentheses.

Reference characters corresponding to elements recited in the detailed description of the drawings and used in conjunction with the recitation of the same element or group of elements in the claims should be enclosed within parentheses so as to avoid confusion with other numbers or characters which may appear in the claims. See MPEP § 608.01(m).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 1-4 and 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a. Claim 1, lines 10-11, and elsewhere, the limitation “the gap z being on a plane vertical to a vector indicating friction force caused between the input member and the output member” is not fully understood. Does applicant intend to claim the gap z is on a plane PENPENDICULAR to a vector indicating friction force between the input and output members? Specifically, the plane may not be

vertical because it depends on the orientation of the device illustrated in the Figures.

b. Claim 3, lines 12+, the equation " $z=a \cdot \sinh(bx^2)$ " is not fully understood because the claim does not define the variables "a", "h", and "b".

c. Claim 3, lines 13+, the limitation "x being a distance from the point at which the input member is assumed to contact the output member along a tangent passing through the point" is not fully understood, and therefore the "distance" cannot be determined.

d. Claim 4, lines 12+, the equation " $z=C_4x^4+C_3x^3+C_2x^2$ " is not fully understood because the claim does not define the variables "a", "Pmax", and "E".

e. Claim 4, lines 13+, the limitation "x being a distance from the point at which the input member is assumed to contact the output member along a tangent passing through the point" is not fully understood, and therefore the "distance" cannot be determined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-4 and 9-14, as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Erban (US Patent 2,020,677).

Erban discloses an input member in frictional engagement with an output member, wherein a profile indicating a gap which is formed between the input and output members is a profile other than a circular arc profile, the gap being on a plane perpendicular to a vector indicating friction force between the input and output members.

10. Claims 1-4 and 9-14, as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Machida et al. (US Patent 4,909,092).

Machida et al. (see Figs. 5-8) discloses an input member in frictional engagement with an output member, wherein a profile indicating a gap which is formed between the input and output members is a profile other than a circular arc profile, the gap being on a plane perpendicular to a vector indicating friction force between the input and output members.

11. Claims 1-4 and 9-14, as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fellows (US Patent 5,263,907).

Fellows discloses an input member in frictional engagement with an output member, wherein a profile indicating a gap which is formed between the input and output members is a profile other than a circular arc profile, the gap being on a plane perpendicular to a vector indicating friction force between the input and output members.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claims 3 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

13. Claims 13 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Note the friction surface of Brown (US Patent 1,250,959).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William C. Joyce whose telephone number is (703) 305-5114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bucci can be reached on (703) 308-3668. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9326 for regular communications and (703) 872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

William C. Joyce
8/4/03